

# 50 top careers

## and the BTEC qualifications to get you there

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The sample routes underneath each job description are just a guide to the many ways you can progress with BTEC qualifications. There are dozens of variations and specialisms on offer that will help you to reach your goals.

Remember that BTECs are totally flexible, meaning that you can take whatever level relates to your current education – you don't necessarily have to take the routes suggested in the samples below, nor do you have to start your BTECs with an Introductory or a First.

### Accountant (trainee)

Accountants manage the financial affairs of individuals and organisations. They undertake a demanding training programme, usually while they are working, studying for examinations set by a professional body.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Business > BTEC National in Business (Finance) > BTEC HNC/D in Business (Finance)

### Actor

An actor communicates a character and situations to an audience through theatre work or onscreen. They will interpret scripts of an author under the instruction and support of a director, although there may be some improvisation required. Work varies enormously and can in addition combine education, training or therapy as well as entertainment.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Performing Arts (Performance: Acting) > BTEC National in Performing Arts (Acting) or Performing Arts (Performance) > BTEC HNC/D in Performing Arts (Performance)

### Advertising executive

Advertising is a project-oriented career concerned with promoting goods, services and ideas. An advertising executive will receive a brief from the client and work closely with account planners to devise a campaign, combining creativity with sound business sense to market a product based on detailed research.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Design > BTEC National in Art & Design (Graphic Design) > BTEC HNC/D in Graphic Design or Business with advertising options

### Aerospace engineer

Aerospace and aeronautical engineers research, design and develop vehicles and their components for the aeronautical industry. They are responsible for the testing, evaluation and operation of a variety of aircraft and spacecraft systems, and are employed in government and educational and research institutions.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Engineering > BTEC National in Engineering or Aerospace Engineering (Standard, Avionics or Mechanics specialisms) > BTEC HNC/D in Aerospace Engineering

### Animal manager

Animal managers are involved in the day-to-day and long-term management of establishments where animals are reared in captivity or cared for. These include zoos, wildlife parks, rescue centres and city farms. Equine managers work at establishments such as livery yards, riding schools, horse breeding studs and stables.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Animal Care > BTEC National in Animal Management > BTEC HNC/D in Animal Management or Equine Management

### Architectural technologist

Architectural technologists specialise in the technological aspects of building design and construction. They work closely with the architects and their designs from the initial client briefing to completion of the project.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Design > BTEC National in Construction > BTEC HNC/D in Building Services



### Arts administrator

Arts administrators are responsible for the smooth and efficient running of organisations involved with the arts, such as theatre and dance companies, orchestras and arts festivals.

**Sample routes:** BTEC Introductory in Performing Arts > BTEC First in Performing Arts (Music) > BTEC National in Music Practice (Performing) > BTEC HNC/D in Drama, Dance and Technical Theatre or Music Performance and Music Production

### Banker (commercial)

A commercial banker provides financial services to individuals, small businesses and large organisations. They work chiefly for high street branches with further opportunities within telephone, internet and digital TV banking and credit and debit card services.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Business > BTEC National in E-Business or Business (Finance) > BTEC HNC/D in Business (Finance)

### Beauty therapist

Beauty therapists aim to improve their clients' wellbeing and physical appearance through body and facial treatments. As experts in their field, they are best placed to recommend specialist hair and beauty products and complementary therapies.

**Sample routes:** BTEC National in Beauty Therapy Sciences (Beautician) > BTEC HNC/D in Hair, Beauty and Holistics (Beauty Therapy)

### Care manager

Care managers are responsible for the management of staff and resources in organisations such as health trusts, residential care homes and community services. They need to be well organised and level-headed, as well as compassionate and sensitive.

**Sample routes:** BTEC Introductory in Health & Social Care > BTEC First in Caring > BTEC National in Care



### Civil engineer

Civil, structural and highway engineers work on road building projects as well as building tunnels, bridges, dams and foundations of complex buildings. They also work on environmental projects such as preventing coastal erosion and restoring contaminated land.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Construction > BTEC Nationals in Civil Engineering > BTEC HNC/D in Civil Engineering

### Civil servant

The Civil Service deals with the important issues facing this country and beyond. They work in the three areas: employees of parliament, central government functionaries and other public servants (such as working for local authorities). Work can vary from finance or procurement to marketing and public relations. Civil servants can work within neighbourhood renewal, social justice, European and international relations, and a variety of other areas.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Public Services > BTEC National in Public Services (Non-Uniformed) > BTEC HNC/D in Public Services

### Computer programmer

Computer programmers follow specifications from systems analysts. They break each specification into a series of logical steps, translate the steps into the appropriate computer language and test and improve the programmes.

**Sample routes:** BTEC Introductory in IT@Work > BTEC First & National in IT Practitioners > BTEC HNC/D in Computing (General)

### Counsellor

Counsellors help clients cope with stress, resolve problems and give advice. Working with individuals, couples or families, they have to be extremely good communicators and sensitive to the needs of others.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Care > BTEC National in Care > BTEC HND in Counselling

### Dietician/Nutritionist

A dietician interprets nutritional science and relays and applies it to therapeutic and regular diets. They work with people of all ages individually or in groups to encourage nutritional wellbeing, prevent food-related problems, treat disease, promote healthy eating and advise on special diets.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Sports and Exercise Sciences > BTEC National in Sports and Exercise Sciences or Food Science and Technology > BTEC HNC/D in Applied Biology

### Director in film, television or theatre

Being a director is one of the most recognisable and fashionable careers. Their job is to interpret scripts and tell stories in their own unique style. There is no hard and fast rule to becoming a director, you just need the right skills, tenacity and vision, an ability to thrive under pressure, and limitless enthusiasm.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Media > BTEC National in Performing Arts (Production) or Media (Video) > BTEC HNC/D in Media (Moving Image) or Performing Arts (Production)

### Electrical/electronic engineer

Electrical/electronic engineers work with power generation, telecommunications, electronics, control systems, informatics and manufacturing. The variety of specialist roles in these sectors is enormous.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Electronics > BTEC National in Engineering > BTEC HNC/D in Electrical/Electronic Engineering

### Environmental consultant

With new legislation leading to an increasing demand in employment opportunities, environmental consultants can find work on projects such as water pollution, air and land contamination, environmental policy, land management, and noise measurement.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Countryside & Environment > BTEC National in Countryside Management > BTEC HNC/D in Environmental Science



### Fashion designer

Fashion designers design clothes and accessories. They may specialise in areas such as sportswear, wedding dresses or lingerie, and usually work in one of three main fields: haute couture (one-off garments for customers), ready-to-wear (designer collections sold in relatively small numbers), or mass-market high street fashion.

**Sample routes:** BTEC Introductory in Art, Design & Media > BTEC First in Design > BTEC National in Art & Design (Fashion and Clothing) > BTEC HNC/D in Fashion and Textiles

### Forensic scientist

A forensic scientist examines materials associated with crimes to provide information or evidence which may be used in the legal process. Forensic science is increasingly important in crime investigation as techniques become more advanced.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Applied Science > BTEC National in Applied Science (Forensic Science) > BTEC HNC/D in Biomedical Science



### Game designer (computers)

A game designer will come up with an initial idea and then document every detail of their artistic vision. They are creative, methodical, and communicative with strong technical skills, enthusiasm for video games and sound gaming knowledge.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in IT Practitioners (General) > BTEC National in Media (Games Design) > BTEC HNC/D in Computing (Software Development)

### Groundskeeper

A groundskeeper is responsible for planting, fertilising, watering, weeding, pruning and maintaining flowers, bushes, trees, shrubs and lawns. They can also be responsible for landscape work.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Horticulture > BTEC National in Horticulture (Design) > BTEC HNC/D in Horticulture

### Graphic designer

Graphic designers convey ideas through the appropriate use of images and words and are a key part of the communications industry. They have to know how to put across a message for information or publicity purposes, using illustration, line and colour.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Design > BTEC National in Art and Design (3D Design) > BTEC HNC/D in Graphic Design

### Hotel manager

Hotel managers are responsible for the efficient provision of all hotel services for guests such as food, drink and accommodation. In large hotels, services may also include entertainment and conference facilities. They are also responsible for planning, organising, directing and co-ordinating the work and resources involved in running a hotel, including general management and monitoring of staff.

**Sample routes:** BTEC Introductory in Hospitality, Travel & Tourism > BTEC First & National in Travel & Tourism > BTEC HNC/D in Hospitality Management

### Human resources officer

Human resources – or personnel – officers help to make the most effective use of an organisation's workforce. They are involved with recruitment, training and development, employee relations, health and safety, reward management and human resources planning.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Business > BTEC National in Business (Human Resources) > BTEC HNC/D in Business (Human Resources Management)

### Illustrator

Illustrators combine elements of fine art and graphic design in their work, producing drawings and paintings for illustrations to accompany text in books, magazines and posters. They usually work freelance and are commissioned by art editors. Their work can be found in magazines, publishing, advertising and graphic design, and in greeting cards, packaging, posters, corporate identity, or newspapers.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Design > BTEC National in Art and Design (Graphic Design) > BTEC HNC/D in Graphic Design

### IT trainer

There are over 1.2 million IT professionals in the UK, and over 18 million users – and they all need training. The IT trainer teaches standard desktop applications and is also employed to teach specific programs for particular industries or organisations, training those who want to be software engineers or technicians themselves.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in IT Practitioners (ICT Systems Support) > BTEC National in IT Practitioners (General) > BTEC HND in Computing, or Computing (ICT Systems Support)

### Journalist

A newspaper and magazine journalist can be a glamorous and exciting profession but, as with any occupation, success comes only after much hard work and effort. However, each day can be different and you must have the flexibility to cover a wide range of stories and features.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Media > BTEC National in Media (Print) or Media (e-Media) > BTEC HNC/D in Media (Journalism)

### Leisure centre manager

Leisure centre managers are responsible for the smooth and efficient running of the centres in which they work, which can vary from gyms and swimming pools to international football grounds and golf courses. Managers will have to promote, develop and run the centre on a day-to-day basis, supervising staff and operating facilities, and are responsible for the health and safety of colleagues, customers and members.

**Sample routes:** BTEC Introductory in Sport & Leisure > BTEC First in Sport > BTEC National in Sport (Sports Development and Fitness) > BTEC HNC/D in Sport and Leisure Management (Health and Fitness)

### Lifestyle consultant

Lifestyle consultants provide physical fitness instruction and give client assessments. This includes measuring blood pressure, recording heart recovery rates, logging fat percentages, joint flexibility and lung capacity, giving advice on nutrition and stress management, monitoring clients' development and providing expert feedback.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First & National in Sport & Exercise Sciences > BTEC National in Sport (Performance and Excellence) > BTEC HNC/D in Sport and Exercise Sciences (Standard, Sports Science, Sports Therapy or Sports Coaching and Leadership)

### Marketing executive

Marketing executives work on various projects to develop brands and promote existing products. They raise public awareness of their clients' products through advertising campaigns and in-store promotions and through building brand loyalty. Marketing executives can be responsible for the planning and co-ordination of the main elements: market research, product development, pricing, sales, distribution and promotion.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Business > BTEC National in Business (Marketing) > BTEC HNC/D in Business (Marketing)

### Merchandise

Merchandising is about selecting the right goods to sell in a shop, deciding how they should be displayed and making sure they're profitable. A merchandiser works for the marketing or buying team for a large retail outlet. They can work up to a year in advance, predicting fashions and products most likely to appeal to customers in the future. You will require a keen business mind and a sharp sense of retail trends.

**Sample routes:** BTEC Introductory in Business > BTEC First in Business > BTEC National in Retail or Business (Marketing) > BTEC HNC/D in Retail Management

### Meteorologist

Meteorology is an observational science undertaken from the Earth and upper atmosphere to forecast weather using specialist computer programs. The information is beneficial to the aeronautical and defence industries, public utilities, commercial organisations and the public via the media. Meteorologists are also heavily involved with research such as climate change.

**Sample routes:** BTEC National in Applied Science > BTEC HNC/D in Computing or Applied Physics

### Motor vehicle technician

Motor vehicle technicians build, repair and maintain vehicles and work in one of four areas: light vehicles (cars and vans), heavy vehicles (trucks, buses and coaches), motorcycles, and auto-electrics. BTECs offer a variety of paths through their engineering suite.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Operations and Maintenance Engineering > BTEC National in Electronic Engineering > BTEC HNC/D in Mechanical Engineering

### Multimedia specialist

Multimedia specialists create ICT based products such as CD-Roms, DVDs or websites which can incorporate computer games, education and training material, advertising and marketing material, catalogue databases and public information. Once designed, the specialists arrange the relevant files, test the products and provide technical support.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in IT Practitioners (ICT Systems Support) > BTEC National in Media (e-Media Production) > BTEC HNC/D in Art & Design: Multimedia

### Musician

The music world is an extremely creative, fiercely competitive industry. Very few people make it to the top of the charts, but there is work to be found as a session artist or in teaching music.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Performing Arts (Music) > BTEC National in Music Practice (Performing) or Music Practice (Composing) > BTEC HNC/D in Music Performance and Music Production

### Nursery manager

A nursery manager will govern a team of child carers, providing a caring and stimulating environment for the children within the day nursery. They are responsible for all aspects of finance, staffing and childcare and undertake recruitment, training, appraisal and supervision of all nursery staff.

**Sample routes:** BTEC Introductory in Health & Social Care > BTEC First in Early Years or Business (Management) > BTEC National in Early Years or Business (Management) > BTEC HNC/D in Managing Health & Care Services



### Pharmacy technician

Pharmacy technicians work in one of three fields: community pharmacy, hospital pharmacy and industrial pharmacy. In each case, their responsibility is to assist the pharmacist and deal with the supply of medicines.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First & National in Public Services or Public Services (Non-Uniformed) > BTEC HNC/D in Public Services or Counselling

### Photographer

A photographer tends to work as a freelancer and usually works to a client's brief. They may specialise in one area such as fashion, press, medical, industrial, scientific or police photography. Photography involves choosing locations, setting up lighting, deciding what equipment to use and composing the pictures in line with the client's requirements.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Media > BTEC National in Art & Design: Photography > BTEC HNC/D in Art & Design (Photography)

### Police officer

Police officers are responsible for the protection of life and property, the prevention and detection of crime, the maintenance of law and order, and the preparation of documentation and evidence for the prosecution of offenders through the legal system. They also have to provide an appropriate, efficient response to all incidents and to provide a quality service at all times.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Public Services > BTEC National in Public Services (Uniformed) > BTEC HNC/D in Public Services

### Quantity surveyor

The quantity surveyor has to manage value for money and cost in building projects, from the initial calculations to the final figures. He or she will seek to minimise the costs of a project whilst still achieving the required quality and standards, many of which are specified by statutory building regulations.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Business > BTEC National in Construction or Engineering > BTEC HNC/D in Building Services



### Recruitment consultant

A recruitment consultant matches people seeking temporary or full-time jobs to employers with suitable vacancies, often working to a detailed brief obtained from a client employer.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Business > BTEC National in Business (Human Resources Management) > BTEC HNC/D in Business (Human Resources Management)

### Retail sales manager

Retailing is the final stage in getting goods and products to consumers. The retail sales manager is responsible for all aspects of running a store, including customer service, staff management and meeting sales targets.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Retail > BTEC National in Business (Management) (or BTEC National in Retail) > BTEC HNC/D in Retail Management

### Social worker

Working to relevant legislation and procedures, the social worker will support individuals, families and groups within the community. Social workers must maintain a friendly but professional relationship with clients, often working with people in crisis. Their aim is to offer the support that enables people to help themselves.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First & National in Public Services or Public Services (Non-Uniformed) > BTEC HNC/D in Public Services or Counselling



### Sound engineer

Qualifying as a sound engineer can bring work in fields as diverse as television, radio, music recording, live sound for concerts or on film sets – anywhere where having an ear for detail is vital. Every role has its own specialisms and varies from spending time behind a studio mixing desk, at gigs, or on location for TV and film productions.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Performing Arts (Music) > BTEC National in Media (Digital) > BTEC HNC/D in Media (Audio)

### Telecommunications engineer

Telecoms work has diversified as the industry has expanded and undergone rapid technological development. In particular, telecoms engineers may work on the design and maintenance of fixed and mobile systems, and on the installation and maintenance of computer systems at customers' premises.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Operations and Maintenance Engineering > BTEC National in Communications or Telecommunications > BTEC HNC/D in Telecommunications

### Tour leader

Travel and tourism is one of Britain's fastest growing industries, comprising leisure travel, business travel, tour operating, resort reps and guiding. You need to know how to look after people and show them a great time. Competition for jobs is intense, and having qualifications in tourism can only improve your chances of success.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First & National in Travel & Tourism > BTEC HNC/D in Travel and Tourism Management

### Trader

Traders make prices on bonds, equities, foreign exchange or commodities, taking positions on behalf of the bank whilst working closely with both sales and research staff in order to understand market and investor sentiment. They deal on behalf of the bank's clients, buying and selling the bonds, often specialising in one or more products.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Business > BTEC National in Business (Finance) > BTEC HNC/D in Business (Finance)

### Travel agency manager

A travel agency manager runs an outlet for retail and/or business travel products. They are responsible for sales development, staff and financial management and day-to-day operational management in an increasingly competitive environment.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in Travel & Tourism or Retail > BTEC National in Travel and Tourism or Business Management > BTEC HNC/D in Travel and Tourism Management

### Website designer

A website designer constructs websites in accordance with a client's brief. Web designers are responsible for the design, layout and coding of web pages, including the 'front-end' of web sites for what the user sees. They combine technical and design skills in a rapidly changing environment.

**Sample routes:** BTEC First in IT Practitioners (General) > BTEC National in IT Practitioners (General) or Art & Design (Multimedia) > BTEC HNC/D in Art & Design (Multimedia)

### The basics about BTECs

BTEC qualifications can provide you with the opportunity to progress your education worldwide, as well as giving you practical skills which are highly regarded by employers and provide access to the global workplace.

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